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H. M. S. COLOSSUS FIRING A BROADSIDE OF 12-INCH GUNS
(Photo from Paul Thompson.)

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THE WAR SITUATION

Up to and Including December 27, 1914.

IN the west the war has descended to trivialities—German airship attacks on London and British assaults on the German coast. In the east it appears that the news of a great German victory is without foundation. It is the first time since the war began when an official bulletin from any of the Powers engaged turns out to be fictitious. Berlin's reputation for honesty and accuracy is so high that we must assume a mistake rather than a deliberate lie. At all events the drive against Warsaw on the Bzura has ceased, the Germans are trying a new route, and the Russian Army is still undefeated and undaunted.

This affords an opportunity of commenting on the truth and modesty of the Russian reports. The Grand Duke Nicholas has won many victories, though perhaps no more than have been won by Hindenburg; but his reports never use the word victory or contain any boast. When Petrograd denied the Berlin announcement of a Russian defeat the reputation the Grand Duke had gained from minimizing his own successes and for conservatism of statement was found to be an asset in the universal acceptance of his word.

Fighting in the eastern field is now going on on the Bzura, in the valley of the Pilica, on the banks of the Nida, along the River Dunajec, in Galicia, and in the foothills of the Carpathians. Before the German advance was checked Hindenburg had driven his enemy across the Bzura and Rawka Rivers and had followed them. There his success ended and the Russians again played checkmate. Hindenburg was not only stopped, but driven southward to the Pilica. There he made his new attempt to advance, and the old seesaw of the east was renewed. There was, however, a German advance in East Prussia, and the Germans got back to Mława, the point from which they made their first attempt to descend on Warsaw from the north and outflank the Grand Duke's army.

Cracow Relieved

THE Russians were again obliged to give up one of their important military movements by reason of the great strength of the German attack. It is not very long since they had to give up the siege of Przemyśl. They were able to advance again and renew the siege, but now they have been forced to give up the siege of Cracow. Reasoning from the past history of the war, we may guess that they will soon be beleaguering that city again, but there was a wholesale withdrawal of all the Russian forces not only around Cracow but throughout that whole region. On the River Nida Gen. Dankl was repulsed and thrown back, and it may be that the failure of

the Austrians at this point had a great deal to do with the checking of the whole movement of the Teutonic army against Nicholas.

One of the most heartrending events of the war took place during this fighting. It was the German bombardment of Sochaczew, in which tenement houses were shot to pieces by eight-inch guns, thousands of civilians killed, and shells fired among the panic-stricken crowds of non-combatants as they tried to flee along the road to Warsaw.

In the west the Allies appear to have been making a slow but steady advance, which may not amount to more than a few hundred yards a day, and their best success seems to have been in Lorraine. The object of this advance was apparently not the recapture of Belgium, but the purpose of keeping the Germans so busy that they would not be able to detach large bodies of reinforcements toward Poland. The British and Germans were engaged in fighting that was almost hand to hand in Belgium.

On Christmas Day the German policy of making England feel uneasy and unsafe had its most spectacular illustration. A German aviator made a dash close to London and flew over Southend. The British biplanes attacked the German and fought a battle in the air while traveling at the rate of seventy miles an hour.

A Battle in the Air

THERE was only one German machine, and it was attacked by three British ones. The German aviator faced his outnumbering assailants with that reckless gallantry which has characterized every move of the German air and water forces since the war began. The British say that the German aeroplane was hit three or four times, and they give it full credit for the heroism with which it fought against superior numbers.

On the same day the British attempted to retaliate by a dash of their own on the German raiders who have been making England unhappy, but this was done by naval vessels, not air vessels. Eight British ships, convoyed by hydro-aeroplanes, assailed the German coast, presumably at the mouths of the Elbe and the Weser. The convoying air vessels threw bombs on ships lying at anchor and on a gas tank near Cuxhaven. The Berlin announcement says that no damage was done and that three of the British vessels were hit with bombs, one of them taking fire. There have been two similar British raids, but they were both aimed at naval vessels, not at an unprotected coast. It is reasonable to assume that the change in the British tactics is due to the attack on Hartlepool, Whitby, and Scarborough and the feeling that that sort of warfare should be repaid in kind. The French attempted to attack the Austrian naval base at Pola, but a French vessel which had succeeded in

getting to the harbor bar struck a steel net, tried in vain to retreat, and was shot down by the forts.

One of the most interesting reports of the week was that of action by the United States armored cruiser North Carolina. A mob in Tripoli, Syria, attacked a number of Frenchmen who had boarded the American steamer Virginia, conveyed by the North Carolina. The North Carolina threatened to bombard Tripoli and the mob broke and fled.

A rebellion broke out in Albania, said to have been fomented by Austrians and Turks. The rebels cut off communication with Durazzo, the capital, and began devastating property and massacring the supporters of Essad Pasha. Essad's palace at Tirana was pillaged and burned, and the Italian Government was obliged to land marines at Avlona, the principal port, to restore order and protect Europeans. Anarchy is said to reign there.

Joffre's Summary Acts

GENERAL JOFFRE demonstrated again his arbitrary control over the French Army by retiring ten Generals of divisions "for reasons of health" and "for reasons of personal convenience." The Commander in Chief had already dismissed five Generals for "weakness in manoeuvres." No one knows who Joffre's commanders are; they get no credit in the official reports, as Field Marshal French's British officers do, but there is some compensation in the fact that when they are disgraced their names are never made known and the reasons go unpublished.

Premier Viviani made an announcement of the greatest importance in the Chamber of Deputies on Dec. 22. He announced that there would be no peace until Alsace and Lorraine were restored to France, until Belgium had regained to the full her material life and her political independence, "and until Prussian militarism has been crushed, to the end that it be possible to reconstruct, on a basis of justice, a Europe finally regenerated." He referred to the treaty of Sept. 4, in which France, Great Britain, and Russia agreed that none of them would make peace with Germany and Austria until all were ready to do so—a treaty which Japan afterward indorsed.

Of course M. Viviani spoke by the card, and we thus have an authoritative pronouncement from one of the four Powers, speaking for all the rest, that the war must be fought to a finish, and that its end must be a restriction of Prussian militarism. German sentiment is fully as determined on war to the bitter end. Thus we have The Magdeburgische Zeitung exclaiming that Germany "has only one duty, not to take her hand from the plow—it is God's will—until the certainty of victory is assured." The outlook for the friends of peace does not seem very encouraging.



GERMAN TROOPS PATRONIZE A RUSSIAN TEA SELLER IN A LITTLE TOWN IN POLAND
(Photo from Sennocke.)



GENERAL KAMIO, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE JAPANESE ARMY
AT THE FORMAL ENTRY OF TSING-TAU.



THE ILTIS FORTRESS OF TSING-TAU OCCUPIED BY THE JAPANESE.
The gun in the foreground was blown up by the Germans.
(Photos from Paul Thompson.)



WIRELESS STATION AT TSING-TAU DESTROYED BY THE JAPANESE BOMBARDMENT.



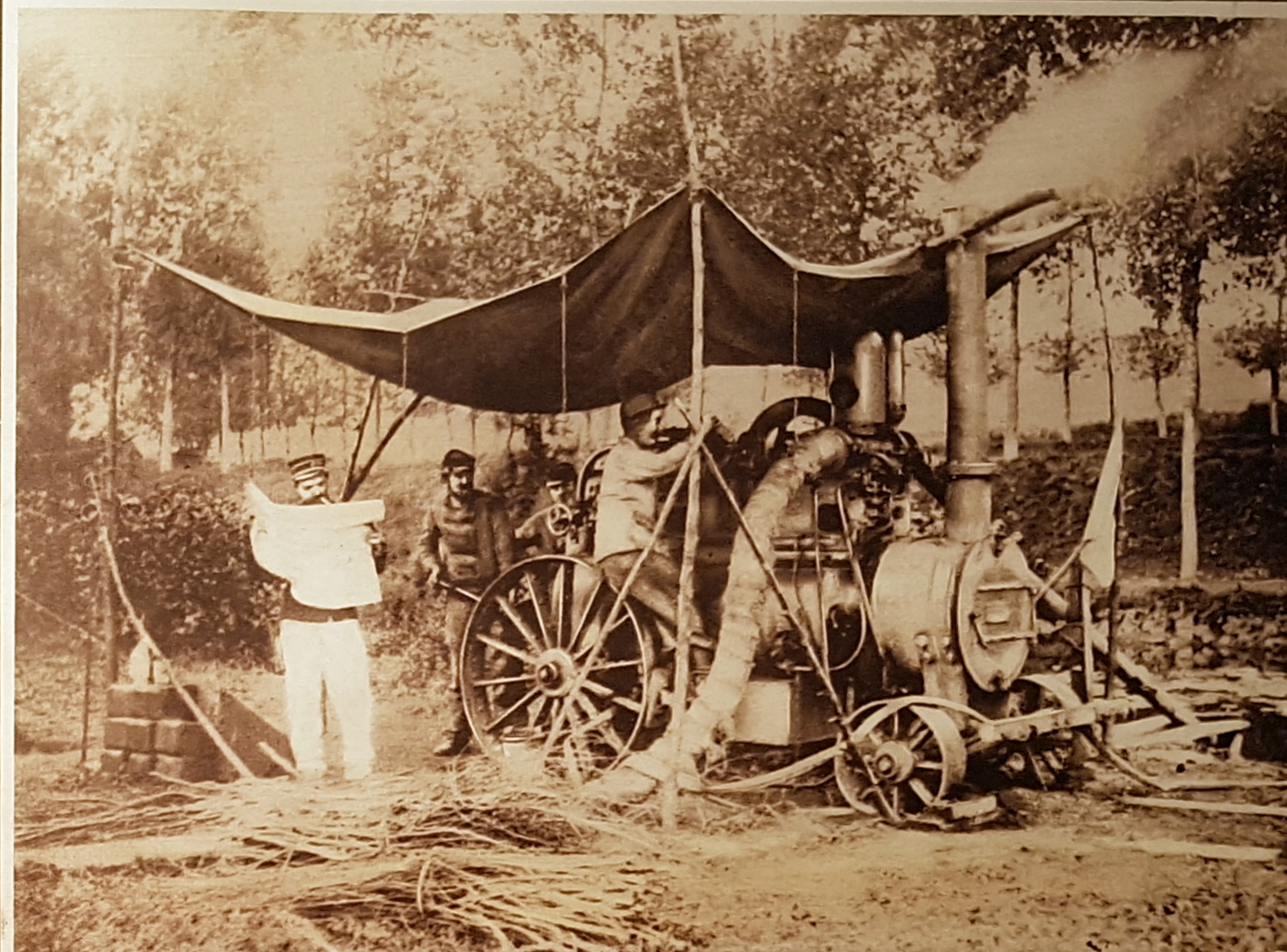
ANOTHER VIEW OF THE ILTIS FORTRESS DESTROYED BY THE BRITISH AND JAPANESE.
This interesting set of photographs is the first to reach this country after the fall of the German stronghold in China.
(Photos from Paul Thompson.)



A FRENCH BIPLANE PURSUING A GERMAN "DOVE" OVER THE FRENCH TRENCHES IN THE NORTH
(Photo (C) by Underwood & Underwood.)



AUSTRALIAN TROOPS EMBARKING ON A TRANSPORT AT MELBOURNE TO ASSIST IN DEFENDING EGYPT FROM THE TURKS
(Photo from Paul Thompson.)



QUENCHING AN ARMY'S THIRST
A French Traction Engine Drawing Water From a Pond



TRANSPORTING GREAT CASKS OF PURE WATER TO THE FRONT
(Photo from Underwood & Underwood.)



AUSTRIAN PONTOON BRIDGE ACROSS THE DANUBE WHICH HAS SINCE BEEN DESTROYED BY THE SERVANS.
(Photo (C) by International News Service.)



FRENCH INFANTRYMEN RESTING IN A TRENCH AT SOISSONS.
(Photo (C) by Underwood & Underwood.)



A TRENCH ABANDONED BY THE GERMANS IS BLOWN UP BY THE FRENCH
(Photos from Underwood & Underwood.)



The Famous 120 mm. Creusot Gun In Action Near Arras.
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THE CZAR OF RUSSIA
AT THE FRONT



AN AUSTRALIAN GUN IN ACTION
On the Left a Shrapnel Shell Is Seen Exploding
(Photo from Paul Thompson.)



A SHELTERED TRENCH OF THE FRENCH TROOPS AT LOEMONT NEAR NANCY
(Photo (C) by International News Service.)



THE HEAVY SIEGE MORTARS USED BY THE JAPANESE AT TSING-TAU
(Photo (C) by American Press Assn.)



A SIBERIAN PONY FALLS WHILE DRAWING A TRANSPORT WAGON



GERMAN PATROL IN A RUINED TOWN IN
EAST PRUSSIA
(Photo from Underwood & Underwood.)



A CHURCH AT ETAVIGNY IN NORTHERN
FRANCE COMPLETELY DESTROYED
(Photo (C) by International News Service.)

"THE FIGHT IN THE CHURCH"—By Alphonse Marie de Neuville



THE FRENCH, STORMING A CHURCH DURING A FRANCO-PRUSSIAN BATTLE, FIGHT THEIR WAY UP TO THE BELFRY WHERE THE PRUSSIAN SHARPSHOOTERS MAKE THEIR LAST STAND.

(Reproduced by Courtesy of Manst-Joyant & Co.)



BELGIANS RETURNING TO THEIR TRENCHES AFTER PASSING IN REVIEW BEFORE KING GEORGE
(Photo (C) by International News Service.)



TRENCHES USED AS GRAVES ON THE GREAT POLISH BATTLEFIELD BETWEEN LODZ AND WARSAW
(Photo from Paul Thompson.)



A FRENCH OBSERVATION BALLOON ASCENDING NEAR THE NORTHERN FRONTIER
(Photo from Underwood & Underwood.)



RUSSIAN INFANTRY PASSING THROUGH A SNOW CARPETED CITY TO THE NORTHERN BATTLE LINE



GENERAL LIMAN VON SANDERS, THE GERMAN CHIEF OF THE TURKISH ARMY, WITH HIS OFFICERS



GERMAN SHARPSHOOTERS HOLDING AN IMPORTANT TRENCH NEAR THE ARGONNE WOODS



A GROUP OF RUSSIAN SOLDIERS, REFUGEES AND A FEW GERMAN PRISONERS IN WARSAW WHEN THE CITY WAS FIRST THREATENED

(Photo (C) by Underwood & Underwood.)



A WELSH REGIMENT HAS ADOPTED THE BELGIAN IDEA OF DOG-DRAWN RAPID FIRE GUNS

(Photo (C) by American Press Assn.)



HIGH MASS IN THE ART MUSEUM AT VIENNA, WHICH IS BEING USED AS A HOSPITAL



A FRENCH CAMP AT ARRAS SHOWING TEMPORARY HUTS ERECTED BY THE SOLDIERS

(Photo from Underwood & Underwood.)



BEHIND THE GERMAN LINES AT DIXMUDE, THE CONTRASTING MILITARY AND DOMESTIC ACTIVITIES FROM AN INTIMATE PICTURE



AN ARTILLERY TRENCH AND FIELD PIECE ABANDONED BY THE GERMANS



A RUSSIAN RED CROSS TRAIN ESCORTED BY COSSACK PATROL
(Photo from Press Illustrating Company.)



THE BIG GERMAN GUNS IN FLANDERS SEEN ON THE HORIZON HAVE BEEN ADVANCED FROM THE WHITE PATCHES IN THE FOREGROUND



RUSSIAN PEASANTS IN FLIGHT FROM THE INVADERS OF POLAND



RUSSIAN TRANSPORT WAGONS CROSSING A RIVER IN POLAND WHERE THE BRIDGE HAS BEEN DESTROYED



PRINCE VON BUELOW
Who Has Accepted the Appointment as
German Ambassador at Rome



FRENCH SENTRY BOX COVERED WITH STRAW
ON THE ROAD TO YPRES
(Photo from Underwood & Underwood.)



VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE OF THE POLISH NOBILITY SOLICITING CONTRIBUTIONS OF FOOD AND CLOTHING FOR THE VICTIMS OF WAR IN WARSAW
(Photo from Paul Thompson.)



GENERAL DE WET
The Rebel Boer Leader Captured by the
British Loyalists



ONE OF THE WOMEN NOW SERVING ON THE
LONDON POLICE FORCE
(Photo (C) by American Press Association.)



WIRE ENTANGLEMENTS DESTROYED BY BRITISH AND JAPANESE INFANTRY AT TSING-TAU.
(Photo from Paul Thompson.)



LIEUT. POURPRES FELL TO HIS DEATH IN THIS AREOPLANE DURING A RECONNOITERING FLIGHT.
(Photos (C) by International News Service.)



GERMANS BREAKING THE ICE ON A RIVER TO PREVENT THE RUSSIANS FROM CROSSING



RUSSIAN RED CROSS AUTOMOBILE DISCHARGING WOUNDED AT A HOSPITAL IN WARSAW
(Photos from Paul Thompson.)



Water Tower, Near Lodz, Used by Civilians to signal the Russian Army, Blown Up by the Germans



German Pioneer Corps Digging a Railway Tunnel Through a Hillside in Northern France



A SERBIAN OUTPOST ON THE DANUBE
The Retaking of Belgrade by the Little Serbian Army Was the Most Unexpected Victory of the War
(Photo (C) by International News Service.)

IMPARTIAL

The New York Times

PRO AND CON

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THE SHEIK-UL-ISLAM PROCLAIMING THE HOLY WAR IN CONSTANTINOPLE

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